**PRESS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT**

### GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH

### DHAKA

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**News Brief**

President Md. Abdul Hamid has said, Bangladesh attaches top priority towards maintaining good relations with all neighbouring countries, particularly with India. The President said this to his former Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee as he paid a courtesy call at Bangabhaban yesterday. The Former Indian President lauded the tremendous development of Bangladesh, saying that he is really impressed seeing the overall development and progress the country made over the last few years. The President latter hosted a dinner in the honour of Pranab Mukherjee. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also attended the function.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the government's future plan is to generate 24,000 MW power by 2021 and 60,000 MW by 2041. Sheikh Hasina also said that the government has a plan to generate 10 percent electricity from renewable energy source and set up 2.02 crore prepaid meter by 2021. The Prime Minister said, the government may take a decision regarding the issue of inclusion of the non-government schools in the monthly pay order (MPO) in the next national budget. The PM informed this in her question-answer session. She also said, initiatives have been taken to set up software technology parks in all divisions and districts. Some 5,225 people are now working in the software parks which have already started their operation, while employment scope for 2,70,750 people will be created if the construction of the remaining software parks is completed.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the developed countries to stand beside Bangladesh in its journey towards prosperity saying their assistance is needed to achieve the sustainable development goals, dealing with environmental change and climatic threat. She made the urge while inaugurating the Bangladesh Development Forum-2018 in Dhaka yesterday. The PM said, Bangladesh is now the 44th largest economy in the world on the basis of GDP. By 2030, Bangladesh will become the world's 28th largest economy, she said. The Premier hoped, the BDF will play an important role in determining collective action strategies and formulating necessary recommendations for building a poverty-hunger-free and prosperous Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and India have expressed their firm resolve to continue their strong bilateral engagements in the coming days. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali and his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj expressed the determination as they met in New Delhi yesterday. Expressing happiness at the India's support to solve Rohingya crisis, Bangladesh Foreign Minister requested the Indian government to continue its support in future. Sushma Swaraj ensured their continuous cooperation in the coming days.

The government yesterday signed two loan agreements with the OPEC Fund for International Development for US$60 million aiming to implement two projects titled 'Construction of Paira Bridge on Barisal-Patuakhali Road' and the 'South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation Road Connectivity Project'.

The government has set 12 years and 6 months as the minimum age for the recognition of the young freedom fighters who took part in the Liberation War of 1971. The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs issued a circular in this regard yesterday.

State Minister for Information Tarana Halim yesterday appointed Purnima Sheel, a tortured victim during the post-election violence in 2001, as her personal officer.

DSEX, the prime index of the Dhaka Stocks Exchange, settled yesterday at 6,098 points.

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